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DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON RWANDA

RELEASED IN FULL

The Security Council remains extremely concerned at the situation in Rwanda and in the countries of the region where millions of displaced persons and refugees are concentrated in extremely precarious conditions from the standpoint of both food and sanitation.

Bearing in mind the extreme seriousness of this situation, the Security Council considers that at present the most immediate task is to resolve the massive humanitarian crisis created by these population movements. To this end, the Council encourages United Nations agencies, Member States and non-governmental organizations to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to alleviating to the best of their ability the situation of these populations that have fled from their villages and their country.

The Security Council insists, however, that the rapid return of the refugees and displaced persons to their homes is the only solution that will contribute to the eventual normalization of the situation in Rwanda. In this regard, the Council strongly condemns attempts to intimidate refugees carried out by individuals and groups of the former interim Government that are seeking to prevent them from returning to Rwanda.

The Security Council, moreover, has taken note that the new Government of Rwanda has declared itself ready to encourage the return of the population, ensure its protection and allow aid to reach those who require it anywhere in the country. It hopes that these commitments will help speed up the return of refugees to Rwanda.

The Security Council also calls upon the Government of Rwanda to ensure that there are no reprisals against those who wish to return to their homes and resume their occupations. To this end, the Council encourages the Government of Rwanda to cooperate with the United Nations, in particular with the Commission of Experts established by the Council in its resolution 935 (1994), with a view to creating a mechanism to judge and condemn those guilty of the atrocities committed in Rwanda, in particular the crime of genocide.

The Security Council recalls that the full deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) should also be conducive to a more secure environment that can accelerate the process of return. For this reason, it is essential that the contingents that are to be part of UNAMIR are deployed without delay and that the technical assistance that they require for this purpose is provided to them by Member States that have the means to do so. The Council also notes the interest aroused by the deployment in Rwandan territory of civilian observers responsible for guaranteeing, by their presence, the establishment of such an environment, and in this regard welcomes the measures envisaged by the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the assistance of certain Member States.

The Security Council remains convinced, as the Secretary-General emphasizes in his report of 3 August 1994 (S/1994/924), that the Arusha Peace Agreement, signed over a year ago, still constitutes a frame of reference for promoting national reconciliation in Rwanda. The Council considers that the Organization of African Unity and the United Republic of Tanzania, which contributed to the negotiation of the Agreement, as well as the countries bordering on Rwanda, will have a special role to play in this area.

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